

Press release

February 16, 2020

Community encouraged to seek advice from their doctor if they're unwell

Health Hawke's Bay is reminding Hawke's Bay residents to call their doctor and not delay being seen during Alert Level 2.

Health Hawke's Bay medical director and Hastings Health Centre GP Dr Louise Haywood says, "We don't want people to put off calling their doctor if they are unwell because we're in Alert Level 2.

"Your local doctor is open and able to provide care for you.

"Practices are set up to help with physical distancing during Alert Level 2, so that no more people than necessary are in a doctor's surgery."

Dr Haywood said online and phone consultations were already being used by many general practices – another trusted consultation tool which was well tested and utilised during 2020.

She also reminded people with cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms to call their doctor or Healthline on 0800 358 5453 to get advice on being tested.

COVID symptoms may include one or more of the following:

- a new or worsening cough
- fever (at least 38°C)
- shortness of breath
- a sore throat
- sneezing and runny nose
- temporary loss of smell.

Health Hawke's Bay's message follows a reminder to Aucklanders by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners that GPs remain open for business:

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/GE2102/S00066.htm>

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